

MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

Minutes of June 18, 2014
Peninsula Township Hall
13235 Center Road, Traverse City

The meeting of the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) Board of Trustees commenced at 9:05 AM, Wednesday, June 18, 2014.

The following Board members were present:

Brad Canale
Keith Charters
Keith Creagh
Sam Cummings
Erin McDonough

Also in attendance were various staff members of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and other interested parties.

I. ADOPTION OF MINUTES FOR MEETING OF APRIL 16, 2014.

Chairperson Cummings called for the adoption of the minutes for the April 16, 2014 MNRTF Board meeting.

**MOVED BY MR. CANALE, SUPPORTED BY DIRECTOR CREAGH, TO
ADOPT THE MINUTES FOR THE APRIL 16, 2014 MNRTF BOARD
MEETING. MOTION PASSED WITHOUT DISSENTING VOTE.**

II. ADOPTION OF AGENDA FOR MEETING OF JUNE 18, 2014.

Chairperson Cummings called for the adoption of the agenda for the June 18, 2014 MNRTF Board meeting.

**MOVED BY MR. CHARTERS, SUPPORTED BY MS. McDONOUGH, TO
ADOPT THE AGENDA FOR THE JUNE 18, 2014 MNRTF BOARD MEETING.
MOTION PASSED WITHOUT DISSENTING VOTE.**

III. INTRODUCTIONS.

Mr. Steve DeBrabander, Manager, Grants Management Section, Finance and Operations Division, DNR, introduced himself and Grants Management Section staff: Mr. Jon Mayes (Unit Manager, MNRTF), Ms. Linda Harlow (Administrative Assistant to staff and Board), Ms. Janet Liesman (MNRTF Financial Analyst), Ms. Jule Stafford (Grant Coordinator), Ms. Tamara Jorkasky (Grant Coordinator), Ms. Christie Bayus (Grant Coordinator) and Ms. Amy Matisoff (Grant Coordinator). Mr. DeBrabander also introduced Mr. Joe Frick, Assistant Division Chief, Finance and Operations Division.

The Board members introduced themselves.

IV. PUBLIC APPEARANCES.

Mr. Jim Radabaugh, Parks and Recreation Division, DNR – Governor’s Showcase Trail – UPDATE

Mr. Jim Radabaugh, Parks and Recreation Division, DNR, gave an update on the Governor’s Showcase Trail. This was first proposed by Governor Snyder in his “Energy and Environment” speech in 2012. At that time he asked the DNR, as well as other state departments, to look at all the existing trails in the state to prioritize and create trail connections to make Michigan the “Trail State” and to create a “Showcase Trail.” The goal of the Showcase Trail is to provide trails from Belle Isle to the Wisconsin border.

A planning team was assembled consisting of staff from the Michigan Economic Development Commission, Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Michigan Department of Transportation, National Park Service and North Country Trail Association to develop a strategic approach to implement the long distance hiking/biking trail by 2017. The team identified the following criteria:

- Long distance hiking and bicycling are two different user groups with two different expectations of the type of trail/tread preferences.
- The hiking and bicycling trail alignment may be on one shared trail tread or two separate trail treads.
- The trail should leverage existing trails that are compatible with and for a long distance hiking and bicycling user.
- The proposed trail alignment should identify required connections between existing developed trails.
- A commitment of all land owners, trail advocates, and trail leaders to fulfilling the vision of the long distance trail.

- The trail endpoints are at Belle Isle, Detroit; and Depot Park, Ironwood.

The Governor approved the strategic plan *A Michigan Showcase Trail: "A Signature Pure Michigan Experience"* in 2013.

Three non-profit trail partners were approached and agreed to assist in identifying local trail corridors and trail connectors – Michigan Trails and Greenways Alliance (Belle Isle to Saginaw Bay), Top of Michigan Trails Council (Saginaw Bay to the Straits) and Iron Ore Heritage Trail Recreation Authority (Straits to Ironwood).

The trail proposal includes:

- Hiking/bicycling trail – 2,032.77 total miles.
- Terminus for both hiking/bicycling trails: East – Belle Isle, Detroit; West – Depot Park, Ironwood.
- Both trails will share the same alignment around Belle Isle and Mackinac Island.
- Hiking trail – 1,258.87 miles total – 60% trail existing; 31% to be developed.
- Bicycling trail – 773.9 miles total – 64% trail existing; 36% to be developed.
- Hiking trail will utilize 1,085 miles of the North Country National Scenic Trail alignment starting in Calhoun County.
- Hiking trail will pass through Lowell, headquarters location for both the National Park Service and the North Country Trail Association.
- Proposed hike and bicycle trail connections will rely upon partnership opportunities.

Mr. Charters asked if there was any estimate of the cost. Director Creagh responded that there is a certain cost per mile of trail. Some would be going through state forest land or a national park. It is estimated to be about \$240 million through this current corridor.

Discussion ensued on various aspects of the Showcase Trail.

Ms. Vicki Anthes, Parks and Recreation Division, DNR – Detroit Riverfront, Belle Isle State Park and Milliken State Park – UPDATES

Ms. Vicki Anthes, Parks and Recreation Division, DNR, provided a PowerPoint presentation on the Detroit riverfront, which includes Belle Isle State Park and Milliken State Park. The DNR's goal for the Detroit riverfront is to establish long-term, public recreation along the riverfront in perpetuity.

In 2011, the DNR received three MNRTF acquisition grants, totaling \$34 million, for the following projects:

- Acquisition of an Outdoor Adventure Center.

- Acquisition of various public use easements and land acquisitions along the Detroit River.
- Acquisition of various private inholding parcels and trail easements, which is in progress.

Through its commitment and partnerships, the DNR has nearly completed these objectives.

In the late 1990's, the Detroit riverfront was largely industrial. This included areas of the Lafarge plant, Globe Building complex, St. Aubin Harbor (which is now Milliken State Harbor) and cement silos.

In early 2000, the Detroit Riverfront Conservancy was created and has developed 2-1/2 miles of the riverwalk trail from Rivard Plaza to Belle Isle Bridge. Most of this is completed. Rivard Plaza is a popular recreation space which is located adjacent to Milliken State Park and Harbor.

The DNR is trying to obtain an inholding located between the Atwater West parcel and Lowland Park parcel.

With public and private partnership, the Outdoor Adventure Center (Globe Building) has been developed. The center will provide interactive and recreational activities that teach about natural resources while they experience the excitement of discovering what state parks have to offer.

The DNR has acquired the former *Detroit Free Press* parcel (28.66 acres). This acquisition was acquired independent of the other MNRTF grants and included, through partnership, a substantial gift from the Detroit Riverfront Conservancy, who has developed and programmed the space.

Mr. Charters asked about the trail along the riverfront and wondered if the easements were complete. Ms. Anthes responded that they are on their way, but not 100 percent completed. Ms. McDonough asked if the areas outlined in light green (on the PowerPoint) were city-owned. Ms. Anthes was unsure.

Mr. Charters asked about security on the riverfront and if there was a plan in place. Ms. Anthes responded yes; there are video cameras and security staff. The Detroit Riverfront Conservancy provides security staff. Director Creagh also mentioned that there is State Police and DNR security in the area, as well.

Ms. Anthes stated that the new developed Detroit riverfront has spurred \$1 billion in total public/private investments. Annual spending by visitors, renters, employees, etc. is estimated at \$43.7 million. There are three million visitors annually.

At this point, Ms. Anthes outlined aspects of the Belle Isle State Park. The administration of this park was assumed by the DNR in February of 2014. With the administration of the park, this will:

- Enrich outdoor public recreation for Detroiters, southeast Michigan and visitors with state and outside resources, including funding and partnerships.
- Broadens the DNR's Outdoor Adventure Center outdoor public connection opportunities via programming outside of Milliken State Park and Harbor.

Ms. Anthes further stated that DNR is managing the vision of the Detroit riverfront as a "system." The partnership with the Detroit Riverfront Conservancy is key to the quality outdoor recreation experiences.

The newest riverfront features include:

- The Outdoor Adventure Center
- Belle Isle State Park
- The Governor's Showcase Trail from Belle Isle to Ironwood (this passes through the Dequindre Cut Greenway to points north).

Mr. Paul Yauk, Parks and Recreation Division, DNR – TF13-131, Old Mooring Place Acquisition – UPDATE

Mr. Paul Yauk, Parks and Recreation Division, DNR, provided an update of the Old Mooring Place Acquisition project, TF13-131.

There were some concerns raised regarding the location of the boat launch area. The DNR had a public meeting with Peninsula Township regarding the boat launch area. Because of these concerns, the MNRTF Board asked the DNR to work with the township to see if there were other alternative areas for the launch area. The DNR had another public meeting with Peninsula Township regarding the boat launch area and presented them with four different plans for the boat launch area.

Copies of the plans were provided to the Board and Mr. Yauk outlined aspects of various locations for the boat launch area.

One of the issues of the initial Old Mooring site was dredging. There would be approximately 1850 yards required for dredging. In addition, there were issues about buffer and road area.

The DNR will be having another meeting with the township board and will be reviewing these plans again.

Chairperson Cummings asked if there will be a consensus of final action taking place at the next meeting. Mr. Yauk responded that he felt there would be a consensus.

Mr. Jay Zollinger, Supervisor, Acme Township (Grand Traverse County) – 14-0228, Bayside Park - South Improvements

Mr. Jay Zollinger, Supervisor for Acme Township, provided a PowerPoint presentation in support of the Bayside Park – South Improvements project (14-0228). Some Board members and DNR staff were able to view the project area yesterday on their tour.

The project will include improvement of universal access to the Grand Traverse Bay, create an accessible multi-modal trailhead to allow access to a newly-formed water trail and an existing non-motorized trail, and protection of Grand Traverse Bay water quality by mitigating stormwater runoff. Other improvements will include parking, accessible beach route, accessible canoe and kayak launch, accessible vault toilet, bio-retention areas and naturalized shoreline for treatment and infiltration of stormwater, bicycling parking, landscaping and site furnishings.

Mr. Zollinger pointed out, via maps on the PowerPoint, the conceptual design plan for the project, and various regional trail systems that would be connected.

Mr. Zollinger further pointed out what was developed under Phase I of Bayside Park via map on PowerPoint. The application the township has submitted for 2014 would be for Phase II development.

Letters of support for the project have been submitted by the Disability Network of Northern Michigan, the Watershed Center Grand Traverse Bay, and TART Trails, Inc.

Mr. Bill Aten, Member, Boyne Valley Trailway Committee, Boyne Valley Township (Charlevoix County) – 14-0236, Boyne Valley Township Trail

Mr. Bill Aten, a member of the Boyne Valley Trailway Committee, Boyne Valley Township, provided a PowerPoint presentation in support of the Boyne Valley Township Trail project (14-0236). The non-motorized trail would connect the City of Boyne City and Village of Boyne Falls.

The first attempt to establish a trail was in 2000. Boyne Valley Township acquired critical parcels in 2010, 2011 and 2013. In addition, Boyne USA Resorts helped facilitate an easement with a crucial landowner in 2013. The City of Boyne City, Boyne Valley Township and Boyne Mountain are major supporters of the project.

The trailway follows the Boyne City, Gaylord and Alpena Railroad grade from Boyne City to Boyne Falls and Boyne Mountain. The trailway will be a non-motorized paved pathway and will be constructed in multiple phases.

The trail proposed in the application submitted this year will connect the trailhead at Boyne Mountain Resort with the proposed Boyne Valley Township Park on Dam Road.

Mr. Aten outlined the location of the trail via a map on PowerPoint.

Impacts of the trailway include:

- Provides a safe connection between two major tourist attractions – Boyne City (Lake Charlevoix) and Boyne Mountain Resort.
- Fosters economic opportunities and growth.
- Provides a safe route between three major schools.
- Provides multiple opportunities to view the Boyne River.
- Provides the opportunity to connect to other area multi-use trail systems.

Mr. Aten stated that the reasons for the trailway development in multiple phases include:

- Accommodates timing with projects being planned and completed in Boyne City, Village of Boyne Falls and Boyne Valley Township.
- Provides opportunity to pursue matching contributions to fit the area economy.
- Provides the opportunity to pursue grants in multiple years.

Boyne Valley Township has agreed to be responsible for the trailway, and the Top of Michigan Trails Council has agreed to receive and hold all matching funds and contributions.

Mr. Klaus Heinert, Gosling Czubak Engineering Sciences, Inc. and Mr. Bruno Wojcik, Trustee, Briley Township, (Montmorency County) – 14-0237, Riverfront Universal and Resource Access Improvements

Mr. Bruno Wojcik, Trustee, Briley Township and Mr. Klaus Heinert, Gosling Czubak Engineering Sciences, Inc., made a PowerPoint presentation in support of the Riverfront Universal and Resource Access Improvements project (14-0237).

Mr. Heinert stated that there are seven key points about the project:

- The project implements a part of a broader waterfront plan.
- Upgrades and adds amenities to an aging park.
- Provides multiple fishing and river access opportunities.
- Follows universal access principles
- Utilizes local funds and volunteer labor.
- Leverages other grant funding being sought
- Integral part of the new Trail Town Initiative.

Mr. Wojcik proceeded to outline various aspects of the project.

The project would replace the existing fishing dock with a universal accessible floating dock; universal accessible playground renovation; renovation of the old Chamber Building; and create a universal accessible family-style restroom.

Additional points to consider about the project include:

- Montmorency County communities have not applied for MNRTF funding since the 1990s.
- Briley Township is a distressed community.
- The project is in the heart of elk country and oil/gas exploration.
- There is broad community support – 2011 recreation millage; three submissions to MNRTF (2011-2013).
- Atlanta, Briley Township/County Seat/Trail Town.
- Scope and phasing carefully considered as additional funds and partners are sought.

Mr. Charters pointed out that it was stated that Montmorency County communities have not applied for MNRTF funding since the 1990s; however, there has been a lot of MNRTF money spent in the county since then. He wanted to emphasize this fact.

Director Creagh pointed out that he met with Montmorency County officials last week regarding the trailhead.

Mr. John Burt, County Administrator, Otsego County – 14-0162, Plaza Park Access Improvements.

Mr. John Burt, County Administrator for Otsego County, made a PowerPoint presentation in support of the Plaza Park Access Improvements project (14-0162).

A Renaissance Streetscape Committee was formed three years ago, consisting of city officials, local businesses, non-profit organizations and private citizens to discuss Plaza Park, as well as other downtown improvements.

The Courthouse Plaza Park would create recreational space in the downtown area to enjoy the county's natural heritage and allow visitors of all ages and physical condition to visit the downtown area for recreational purposes.

Mr. Burt outlined some other projects completed in the county, including 10 acres for a dog park.

Mr. Burt outlined proposed improvements, via maps on PowerPoint.

The water feature improvements would include: three large rock elements, bubblers on each rock, with five water jets, flat rock seating around fountain and a recirculating stream. The fire pit improvements would include a gas fire pit with a screen cover located at the end of the

stream element with flat rock seating. Tables, drinking fountains, and parking will be handicapped accessible. Recycled materials will be used in picnic tables, benches and signage.

Mr. Burt stated that the total project is for \$398,300, with \$273,000 being requested from the MNRTF, with a \$125,300 match.

Mr. Lucas Porath, Consultant, Northwest Design, representing St. James Township (Charlevoix County) – 14-0264, Beaver Island Harbor Development

Mr. Lucas Porath, Consultant, Northwest Design, made a PowerPoint presentation on behalf of St. James Township, in support of the Beaver Island Harbor Development project (14-0264).

Mr. Porath outlined aspects of the project via a map on PowerPoint.

The project will be developed in four phases. Phase I will be for construction of a boating access ramp with minor dredging, steel sheet pile seawall, stone revetment, retaining wall, sidewalk and removable skid pier. Future phases will include a vault toilet building, landscaping (Phase II), paved parking area (Phase III) and fishing pier (Phase IV).

The township is seeking a \$225,000 grant from the MNRTF.

Mr. Ralph Ochs, Village President, Village of Wolverine; and Ms. Emily Meyerson, Trailway Coordinator, Top of Michigan Trails Council – 14-0171, Trailhead Improvements on the North Central State Trail and Lumberman Park

Mr. Ralph Ochs, Village President for the Village of Wolverine; and Ms. Emily Meyerson, Trailway Coordinator, Top of Michigan Trails Council, made a presentation in support of the Trailhead Improvements on the North Central State Trail project (14-0171).

Ms. Meyerson outlined aspects of the North Central State Trail. A map of the area was provided for the Board's information. The North Central State Trail runs along the side of Lumberman Park.

Mr. Ochs continued the presentation. The North Central State Trail runs along the west side and the Sturgeon River along the east side of the park. The South Park is a day use area with playground and picnic sites; the North Park has a campground, canoe/kayak access, horseshoe pits, picnic pavilion and potable water. The North Park is used for the annual Lumberjack Festival, community events, reunions and weddings. In addition, it is used by the schools for educational and recreational purposes.

The project would include modern accessible flush toilets, dump station, renovated vault toilets, foot paths, wayfinding signs, accessible fishing pier and walking trail with a pedestrian bridge over the river and linking to the North Central State Trail.

The project total is \$406,000 with \$300,000 being requested from the MNRTF. The match will be \$106,000.

Mr. Matt Heiman, Director of Land Programs, Leelanau Conservancy and Leland Township

Mr. Matt Heiman, Director of Land Programs, Leelanau Conservancy, wished to thank the Board for their funding support of the Clay Cliffs Natural Area Acquisition (TF11-020) to Leland Township. This has provided great recreational benefits to visitors and provides great panoramic views.

The ribbon-cutting ceremony will be August 29, 2014 and encouraged all to visit this beautiful property.

V. OLD BUSINESS.

2014 Application Review

Mr. DeBrabander outlined the summary of 2014 MNRTF applications received. Grants Management received 16 local (\$8.8 million) and 10 State (\$9.6 million) acquisition applications, for a total of 26 (\$18.5 million in requests). For development applications, 118 local (\$23.4 million) and 10 State (\$2.5 million) were received, for a total of 128 (\$26 million in requests).

The total number of applications received was 154, requesting \$44.5 million.

By comparison, in 2013, 142 applications were received.

The Board has received a list of all MNRTF projects by county, and separate lists for acquisition and development applications. A list of ineligible or withdrawn applications has also been included.

MiRecGrants Training for MNRTF Board

Mr. DeBrabander stated that this year the 2014 applications were submitted via the new MiRecGrants database. Ms. Jule Stafford has registered all Board members into the system so they can access information on the applications submitted. Instructions on how to use the MiRecGrants database to view applications has been included in the Board's package.

Ms. Stafford outlined procedures for accessing the MiRecGrants database for the Board.

VI. NEW BUSINESS.

Update on MNRTF Staff Activities

Mr. DeBrabander outlined updates of various MNRTF staff activities.

- Grant Coordinators are beginning their site inspections of 2014 applications received (MNRTF, Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) and Recreation Passport grant programs).
- MiRecGrants – finalizing the completion of the database.
- In the process of filling Mr. Sam Duncan's position (Program Manager of LWCF, Recreation Passport and Marine Safety grant programs).
- Grants Management is now administering nine grant programs. Will be filling an Account Technician position to process payments.
- Staff have received and attended a number of park dedication/ribbon-cutting ceremonies. This is now a new requirement of MNRTF, LWCF and Recreation Passport grant projects.
- Staff has been working to get caught up on Post-Completion inspections (both on-site inspections and self-certification). In addition, when a community submits their five-year recreation plan, Self-Certification inspection forms for all grants they have received must be included in the plan. This will help keep the project up-to-date.
- Grants Management Section's Grant Coordinators are backups for the Regional Prosperity working groups.
- Grants Management Section has been working with the Marketing and Outreach Division to develop and improve ways to educate the public on the MNRTF Program.
- There has been an increase in the number of recognition signs being purchased by grantees for all grant programs.

2014 MNRTF Applications – Invitees to Make Presentations at August 20, 2014 Meeting

Mr. Jon Mayes outlined that staff has recommended eight applicants to be invited to make a presentation at the August 20, 2014 Board meeting in Harrison Township. If the Board wishes to have others invited, please let staff know by July 25, 2014.

TF11-121, Harsens Island Conservation Area Acquisition, Clay Township; and TF10-158, Camp Talahi Acquisition Project, Parks and Recreation Division, DNR – **PROJECT WITHDRAWALS**

Mr. Mayes outlined two MNRTF projects – TF11-121, Harsens Island Conservation Area Acquisition, Clay Township; and TF10-158, Camp Talahi Acquisition Project, Parks and Recreation Division, DNR – that are seeking withdrawals.

MOVED BY MR. CHARTERS, SUPPORTED BY MR. CANALE, TO ACCEPT THE WITHDRAWALS OF TF11-121, HARSENS ISLAND CONSERVATION AREA, CLAY TOWNSHIP; AND TF10-158, CAMP TALAHU ACQUISITION PROJECT, PARKS AND RECREATION DIVISION, DNR. MOTION PASSED WITHOUT DISSENTING VOTE.

VII. STATUS REPORTS.

DNR Real Estate Report – State Acquisitions

No discussion.

Completed MNRTF Projects Report

No discussion.

MNRTF Financial Report

Mr. Joe Frick outlined the MNRTF Financial report. The withdrawals that were just accepted by the Board have been included in the figures. There is almost \$20 million available for acquisition grants and \$4.1 for development grants.

Final figures will not be known until the books are closed at the end of the fiscal year.

The Stabilization Reserve target is just under \$54 million and the present balance is just under \$42 million.

MNRTF Land Consolidation and Line Item Department Projects

No discussion.

VIII. OTHER MATTERS AS ARE PROPERLY BROUGHT BEFORE THE BOARD.

None.

IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS.

The next meeting of the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Board is scheduled for 9:00 AM, Wednesday, August 20, 2014, Lake St. Clair Metropark, Thomas S. Walsh Activity center, 31300 Metropolitan Parkway, Harrison Township, Michigan.

X. ADJOURNMENT.

**MOVED BY MS. McDONOUGH, SUPPORTED BY DIRECTOR CREAGH, TO
ADJOURN THE MEETING. PASSED WITHOUT DISSENTING VOTE.**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 AM.

Sam Cummings, Chairperson
Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund
Board of Trustees

Steven J. DeBrabander, Manager
Grants Management Section
Finance and Operations Division

DATE